

WASHINGTON, DC , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) inserted the following statement into

"Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 861 is a whitewash justification of every erroneous action of the Bush-Cheney ad

It's no surprise that Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld seek this late coating of whitewash that this resolution

Americans were told repeatedly by President Bush and Vice President Cheney that Iraq had weapons

President Bush and Vice President Cheney repeatedly implied that Iraq was involved in the terrorist att

The conduct of President Bush's war of choice has been plagued with incompetent civilian leadership o

The most critical, much-cited incompetent decision on the part of the Bush administration was to comm

Stop the looting of the treasures of Iraq's ancient culture and the public institutions of present day Iraq , i

- Seize control of Saddam's huge conventional weapons depots which have been used to kill our se
- Control the borders against the influx into Iraq of senior terrorists from Bin Laden's international ne
- Provide the Iraqi civilian population security from the Sunni-Baathist insurgency as it grew in streng
- Hold the ground fought over with insurgents in search and destroy missions which left whole cities

The incompetence regarding body and vehicle armor rises almost to a level of criminal negligence.

The military's own report says that one-third of deaths and casualties could have been avoided if prop

But instead of honoring our soldiers now with an honest debate about the war, its conduct and its prosp

Even though there was no connection between Afghanistan and Iraq, H. Res. 861 seeks desperately to

It seeks to cast the missteps and incompetence in Iraq as progress in the global war on terror. Even th

Exactly the opposite is true.

After 9/11, in part because so many nations lost citizens in the World Trade Center, America enjoyed v

Did we complete that mission? No; Bin Laden is still at large and the conditions in Afghanistan are det

We've now spent well over \$350 billion on an effort that has not achieved its own goals and, due to its

Twenty-five hundred fine young American men and women have lost their lives, 95% of whom have be

America has also forever lost the service of thousands of good soldiers who are now disabled as a res

President Bush and his administration have defended torture and rendition and ignored the Geneva Co

And, finally, President Bush's war on Iraq has provided Al Qaeda a training and recruitment ground that is a threat to the world.

So a truthful assessment of how America is doing in the war on terror as a result of President Bush's war on Iraq is that we are doing very poorly.

Clearly, a stable, unified and democratic Iraq cannot be achieved militarily by the U.S. Our servicemen and women are not the solution.

If a unified and stable Iraq is to emerge out of the ethnic and sectarian violence that is so perilously close to the U.S. border, it must be achieved through a political process.

Nor should we accept the President's mantra, "When the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down." A nice sentiment, but it is not a strategy.

We need to make it clear that we will withdraw from Iraq within six to nine months, so that the Iraqis will know that we are serious.

We should immediately state that we will seek no permanent military bases in Iraq. In the remaining months of this war, we should focus on the political process.

The Bush administration has made many grievous and costly errors in Iraq over the past three and half years.

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